

The President's Daily Brief

3 March 1971

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[redacted] Soviets [redacted]

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(Page 1)

[redacted] Laotian [redacted]

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(Page 2)

President Yahya has taken steps to contain reaction in East Pakistan to his decision to postpone the Constituent Assembly. (Page 3)

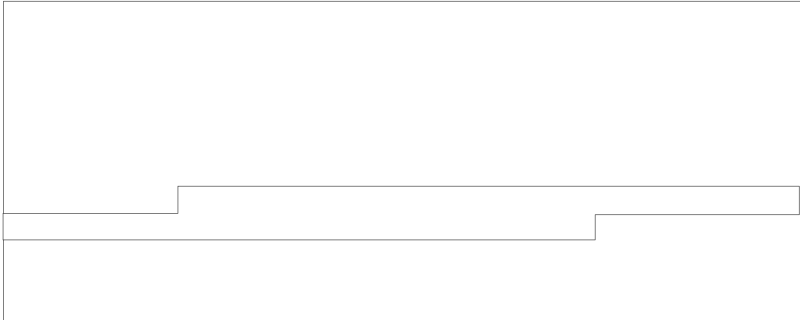
The government crisis in Norway is discussed on Page 4.

In Uruguay, the Tupamaros have released Claude Fly following his heart attack. (Page 5)

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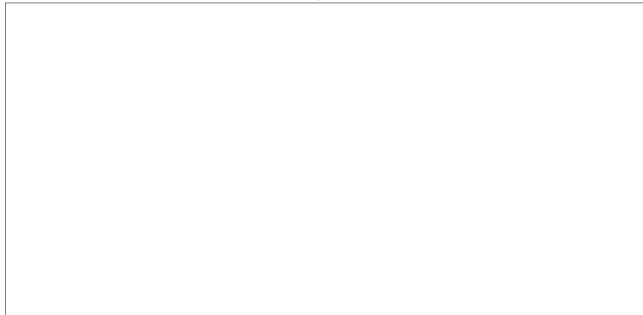
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Operation LAM SON 719 Situation Map

← General location of ARVN forces



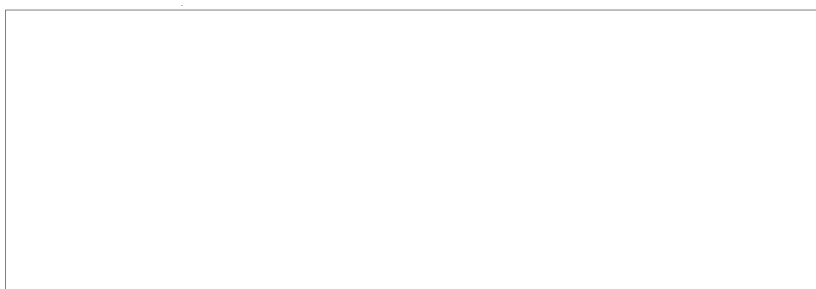
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VIETNAM-LAOS



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Hanoi evidently plans to continue to push large amounts of supplies through the Tchepone area this month. An intercept of 28 February indicates that the first phase of the enemy's so-called "crash" logistics effort was completed on schedule at Binh Tram 33 (located just south of Tchepone) and that the second phase is to begin momentarily. Farther down the line, below Muong Nong, Binh Tram 34 began the first phase of its "crash" effort during the last week of February.

Thus, substantial Communist supply shipments through the Laotian panhandle probably are projected for March and well into April. In the past, the amount moved during the second phase has been less than the amount shipped during the first phase.

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PAKISTAN

On the heels of his indefinite postponement of the Constituent Assembly, President Yahya Khan has removed the five provincial governors and named martial law administrators in their stead, and has also imposed censorship.

Although applying to the entire country, the moves are aimed at containing East Pakistani reaction. The governor of East Pakistan has tended to rule leniently, and the local army commander who replaced him is considered to be somewhat tougher.

The general strike called by Mujibur Rahman completely tied up Dacca yesterday. The strike is to be extended to the rest of East Pakistan today. Assorted acts of violence have caused authorities to place Dacca under a nighttime curfew.

Consul General Blood comments that it would be difficult to overestimate the sense of shock, frustration, and anger which has gripped the people of East Pakistan. Mujib remains committed to announce his plans at a mass rally next Sunday. He may limit himself to a policy of noncooperation, such as refusing to pay taxes, stopping work at vital facilities, and boycotting West Pakistani goods. The atmosphere in Dacca, nevertheless, is conducive to a unilateral declaration of independence.

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NORWAY

Prime Minister Borten, who submitted his government's resignation yesterday, is expected to ask the King to call the president of Parliament, a conservative, to lead talks on the formation of a new cabinet. This move, combined with the adjournment of Parliament until Friday, allows the four government parties additional time to negotiate an extension of the center-right coalition.

Although the present crisis was precipitated by Borten's indiscreet handling of a document on Norway's policy toward the Common Market, it reflects the basic instability of the center-right coalition which has been governing with only a two-seat majority since the election of 1969. Dissatisfaction with Borten's leadership had been growing among the coalition parties as the government seemed to stumble from crisis to crisis and as the parties' standing declined in public opinion polls.

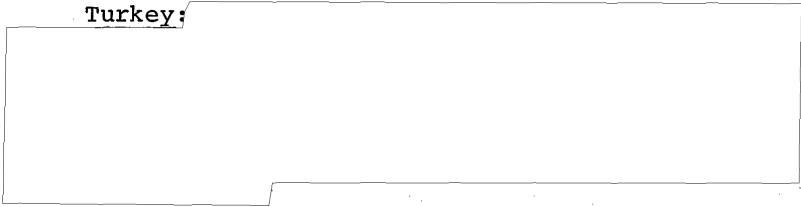
The Labor Party, with 74 seats in the 150-member Parliament, is likely to form a cabinet if the present government parties are unable to do so. Although a Labor government would be unstable--it could be brought down any time the other four parties united against it--it would give stronger voice to certain themes popular in Scandinavia but troublesome for the US. Under either Labor or the center-right coalition, Norway's membership in NATO would remain firm, but Labor might move to recognize North Vietnam, a policy to which it committed itself in the last election campaign.

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NOTES

Uruguay: The release of Claude Fly yesterday after he suffered a heart attack reflects the Tupamaros' sensitivity to the public outcry which would certainly have followed the death of another of their captives. The terrorists still hold British Ambassador Jackson and may be even more inclined to drive a hard bargain for his release after giving up Fly for no return and after releasing the Brazilian consul in a private ransom deal last week. To recoup prestige, the Tupamaros may also try to increase urban terrorist attacks and could make an early attempt at another kidnaping. The government shows no sign of granting any terrorist demands, however, and is unlikely to change its firm policies in this election year.

Turkey:



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